

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9633

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TIMING OF CC PLENUMS AND SUPREME
SOVIET MEETING

1. FRG AMBASSADOR SAHM HAS PASSED ON A REPORT, WITHOUT NAMING HIS SOURCE, THAT A CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM WILL BE HELD BETWEEN THE JUNE 16 ELECTION AND THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NEW SUPREME SOVIET. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, THE AGENDA WILL BE DEVOTED TO ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS SUCH AS FORMING THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND STAFFING THE VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMISSIONS. FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV AND CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS SKACHKOV ALLEGEDLY WILL BE REMOVED.

2. COMMENT: IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT A CC PLENUM WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY PRECEEDING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SUPREME SOVIET TO APPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL DECISIONS. WHILE NOT DEFINITE ON THE DATE, KNOWLEDEABLE SOVIET SOURCES HINT THAT THE FIRST SESSION MAY BE HELD ONE MONTH AFTER THE ELECTIONS. IN ANY CASE, WE CAN EXPECT 30 DAYS NOTICE.

3. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT A CC PLENUM MIGHT BE
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SCHEDULED SHORTLY BEFORE JUNE 27 TO SET THE STAGE

FOR THE SUMMIT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON. SUCH
A PLENUM COULD CONCEIVABLY ALSO DEAL WITH SUPREME
SOVIET MATTERS, OR THERE COULD BE TWO CC PLENUMS
THIS SUMMER.

4. THE REMOVAL OF PATOLICHEV ON GROUNDS OF ILL HEALTH
SEEMS HIGHLY LIKELY. HE HAS NOT YET RECOVERED FROM
MARCH HEART ATTACK TO RESUME ANY OF HIS DUTIES AS FOREIGN
TRADE MINISTER. IN VIEW OF STUDIES REPORTEDLY BEING
MADE BY INOZEMTSEV'S INSTITUTE (MEMO), POSSIBLY IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE USA INSTITUTE, ON RESTRUCTURING THE
ORGANIZATION OF FOREIGN TRADE, THIS SUBJECT MIGHT
POSSIBLY BE CONSIDERED AT A PLENUM AND AT THE SUPREME
SOVIET. THE RECENT PROMOTIO OF I.A. ARKHIPOV TO THE
RANK OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER JUMPS HIM OVER HIS FORMER
CHIEF SKACHKOV, AND LENDS SOME CREDENCE TO THE RUMOR
ABOUT SKACHKOV'S ECLIPSE.
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